

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for automatically inputting grades into an electronic
5 gradebook, comprising:
 - a) a grading label comprising a data field containing data, wherein said data includes grade information and student identification information, wherein said grading label comprises:
 - 10 i) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia and
 - ii) a grade input area, wherein said grade input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a
15 set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia and
 - b) means for imaging said data field and transferring data from said data field to an electronic gradebook.
2. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said data field comprises a
20 data rectangle.
3. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said data field resides on a document.

4. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said means comprises:

a) a digital camera;

b) a microprocessor connected to said digital camera; and

c) programming associated with said microprocessor for carrying out the

5 operations of:

i) obtaining an image of said data field,

ii) processing said data, and

iii) transferring said processed data to said electronic
gradebook.

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5. A system for automatically grading and inputting grades into an
electronic gradebook, comprising:

a) a data field containing student identification information and grade
information, wherein said grade information is selected from a group
15 consisting of score information and answer information; and

b) means for imaging said data field and establishing and transferring a grade
from said grade information and associated student identification
information data from said data field to an electronic gradebook.

20 6. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said data field comprises a
data rectangle.

7. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said data field resides on a
document.

8. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said means comprises:
- a) a digital camera;
 - b) a microprocessor connected to said digital camera; and
 - 5 c) programming associated with said microprocessor for carrying out the operations of:
 - i) obtaining an image of said data field;
 - ii) processing said data to establish said grade and associated student identification information data;
 - 10 iii) and transferring said processed data to said electronic gradebook.
9. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said data field comprises a grading label.
- 15 10. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said grading label comprises:
- a) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia; and
 - 20 b) a grade information input area, wherein said grade information input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.
11. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein the identification number

input area comprises said set of input bubbles, wherein said set of input bubbles comprises:

- a) a first row of numbered input bubbles;
- b) a second row of numbered input bubbles; and
- c) a third row of numbered input bubbles.

12. A system as recited in Claim 11, wherein each row of numbered input bubbles comprises ten input bubbles, the input bubbles being individually and non-repeatingly numbered from zero to nine.

13. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein the identification number input area comprises said set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia, wherein said set of boxed regions comprises one or more boxed regions.

14. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said grade information input area comprises a series of lettered input bubbles.

15. A system as recited in Claim 14, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain score information.

16. A system as recited in Claim 14, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain answer information.

17. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said grade information input

area comprises a series of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

18. A system as recited in Claim 17, wherein said series of boxed regions contain score information.

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19. A system as recited in Claim 17, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain answer information.

20. An apparatus for automatically grading and inputting grades into an
10 electronic gradebook, comprising:

- a) a digital camera;
- b) a microprocessor connected to said digital camera; and
- c) programming associated with said microprocessor for carrying out the operations of:

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- i) obtaining an image of a data field;
- ii) processing data in said data field; and
- iii) transferring said processed data to said electronic gradebook.

20 21. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein said data field comprises a data rectangle.

22. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein said data field resides on a document.

23. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein the data from said data field includes grade information and student identification information.

5 24. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein said data field comprises a grading label.

25. An apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said grading label comprises:

- 10 a) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia; and
- 15 b) a grade information input area, wherein said grade information input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

26. An apparatus as recited in Claim 25, wherein the identification number input area comprises said set of input bubbles, wherein said set of input bubbles

20 comprises:

- a) a first row of numbered input bubbles;
- b) a second row of numbered input bubbles; and
- c) a third row of numbered input bubbles.

27. A system as recited in Claim 26, wherein each row of numbered input bubbles comprises ten input bubbles, the input bubbles being individually and non-repeatingly numbered from zero to nine.

5 28. A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein the identification number input area comprises said set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia, wherein said set of boxed regions comprises one or more boxed regions.

29. A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said grade information input
10 area comprises a series of lettered input bubbles.

30. A system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain score information.

15 31. A system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain answer information.

32. A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said grade information input area comprises a series of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

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33. A system as recited in Claim 32, wherein said series of boxed regions contain score information.

34. A system as recited in Claim 32, wherein said series of boxed regions

contain answer information.

35. A method for automatically grading and inputting data from a data rectangle to an electronic gradebook, comprising:

- 5 a) reading an image of a document having a data rectangle;
- b) finding the data rectangle; and
- c) inputting identification information and grade information from the data rectangle to the electronic gradebook.

10 36. A method as recited in Claim 35, further comprising calculating a grade from said grade information and inputting said grade to the electronic gradebook.

37. A grading label, comprising:

- 15 a) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia; and
- b) a grade information input area, wherein said grade information input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

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